

COMPREHENSION CHALLENGES

"How quaint these people are!" observed the Chinese watching an American wedding ceremony. "In China, brides wear red; surely you'd think any one could figure out the right color for a wedding."

In every country people grow up thinking that their customs are naturally the only right way to do things. To the people of other lands we have many customs that are considered very quaint indeed.

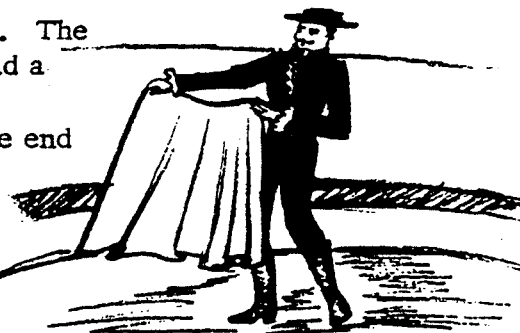
To many people in India, cows are sacred and to eat beef is considered to be savage.

In Japan white is the traditional color of death. The Japanese wonder who would dress their brides in so sad a hue.

In Arab countries, a nice big loud "burp" at the end of a meal indicates polite pleasure.

In Mexico, some think American football is very cruel. It is acceptable there for man to fight a bull, but deliberately hurting another man is thought to be ruthless.

Who is to say which custom is quaint?



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1. This story is about:
 - (a) customs
 - (b) China
 - (c) Mexico
 - (d) India
2. A sad color in Japan is:
 - (a) red
 - (b) white
 - (b) black
 - (d) blue
3. What country would think it strange if a bride wore white?
 - (a) United States
 - (b) Mexico
 - (c) Japan
 - (d) India
4. American football is considered very cruel by some who live in:
 - (a) India
 - (b) Mexico
 - (c) Japan
 - (d) China
5. After eating a good meal in Egypt, some people:
 - (a) choke
 - (b) burp
 - (c) sleep
 - (d) take a walk
6. In this story quaint means:
 - (a) odd
 - (b) old fashioned
 - (c) pleasing
 - (d) fanciful
7. Some people in each country might think their own customs are best because:
 - (a) they are not intelligent
 - (b) they are intelligent
 - (c) of training in schools and home
 - (d) they are not prejudiced
8. Why is a bull fight not considered cruel in Mexico?
 - (a) the animal is killed quickly
 - (b) it is a controlled sport
 - (c) the bull is not human
 - (d) a bull is not hurt but directly killed